

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ROME 01113 221846Z

46

ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ERDA-05

ACDA-05 NRC-05 OMB-01 NEA-10 SAJ-01 /086 W

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R 221659Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5299

INFO CNA WASHDC PRIORITY

COMNAVSEAYSCOM WASHDC PRIORITY

USCINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

COMSIXTHFLT

COMSUBGRUEIGHT NAPLES

COMFAIRMED NAPLES

CONCLANTFLT NORFOLK

USMISSION NATO

USNMR SHAPE

CHINFO WASHDC

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY OSLO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 1113

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MNUC, MARR, IT, NATO

SUBJ: NPW VISITS TO MEDITERRANEAN

REFS: A) STATE 294701, DTG 132223Z DEC 75 (NOTAL)

B) USDAO ROME, DTG 310925Z DEC 75 (NOTAL)

1. IN REF B, DAO ROME, IN PARTIAL RESPONSE TO REF A, PRESENTED

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 ROME 01113 221846Z

PRELIMINARY AND INFORMAL VIEWS OF SENIOR ITALIAN NAVY OFFICIALS

CONCERNING POSSIBLE DEPLOYMENT TO THE MED OF THE NIMITZ GROUP AND SUBSEQUENT VISITS TO ITALIAN PORTS. THESE OFFICERS WERE SOMEWHAT DIFFIDENT AND REQUESTED THAT EMBASSY ROME INFORMALLY QUERY THE ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY ON SAME SUBJECT.

2. EMBOFFS HAVE BROACHED THIS SUBJECT WITH CHIEF AND DEPUTY OF MFA NATO OFFICE ON VARIOUS OCCASIONS IN THE LAST TWO MONTHS. WHILE THEY ALSO DISPLAY A MODERATE LEVEL OF CONCERN, IT SHOULD BE UNDERSTOOD THAT THEY FAVOR THE DEPLOYMENT AND WILL COOPERATE WITH EMBASSY AND USH IN FINDING WAYS TO PREPARE THE ITALIAN PUBLIC FOR THE DEPLOYMENT.

3. MFA WOULD PREFER TO BE IN A POSITION TO ASSERT THAT NPW VISITS TO ITALIAN PORTS TAKE PLACE UNDER SOME EXPLICIT NATO UMBRELLA AGREEMENT AND THAT SUCH VISITS ARE MADE UNDER TERMS, CONDITIONS AND GUARANTEES SIMILAR TO THOSE APPLICABLE TO ALL NATO NATIONS' NPS'S WHEN THEY ENTER ANY OTHER NATO ALLIES' PORTS. THEY WERE ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN LEARNING OF TERMS SET BY OTHER ALLIES FOR MOST RECENT NIMITZ NOREUR DEPLOYMENT.

4. EMBOFFS STATES THEY WERE NOT AWARE OF ANY SPECIAL TERMS POSED BY NOREUR HOSTS, AND AFFIRMED THAT USG ACCEPTED THE STANDARD STATEMENT WHENEVER ANY OF ITS ALLIES' NUCLEAR SHIPS VISITED US PORTS AND REITERATED US VIEW THAT STANDARD STATEMENT -- ESPECIALLY WHEN VIEWED IN LIGHT OF IMPRESSIVE HISTORY OF ACCIDENT-FREE OPERATIONS AND RECENT BROADENED STATUTORY BASE FOR LIABILITY PAYMENTS -- PROVIDES SOUND BASIS FOR DEPLOYMENTS. NONETHELESS, THE MFA WOULD FEEL MORE SECURE WERE THERE A FIRM NATO HOOK THEY COULD HANG THIN ON. ONE POSSIBILITY RAISED WAS FOR THE DPC OF THE NAC TO OFFICIALLY ENDORSE DESIRABILITY OF GENERAL ALLIED ACCEPTANCE OF SUCH VISITS ON THE BASIS OF AN AGREED VERSION OF THE STANDARD STATEMENT.

5. MFA ALSO DISPLAYED CURIOSITY CONCERNING NATURE OF AGREEMENTS UNDER WHICH USN NPW VISITS TO ITALIAN PORTS NOW CONDUCTED. THEY WERE INFORMED THAT SUBJECTED IS HANDLED IN MILITARY-TO-MILITARY CHANNELS BASED ON THE STANDARD STATEMENT, EXPERIENCE, CLOSE FRIENDLY CONSULTATIONS AND COMMON SENSE. EMBOFFS EXPLAINED WHY USG FEELS IT WOULD BE UNWISE TO SEEK CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ROME 01113 221846Z

FORMAL TREATY TYPE AGREEMENTS FOR EACH PORT TO BE VISITED BY EACH TYPE OF SHIP. IT WAS ALSO MADE PLAIN THAT THESE VOLUNTARY AND EARLY CONSULTATIONS DID NOT SIGNIFY A USG BELIEF THAT NIMITZ VISITS WOULD BE MATERIALLY DIFFERENT FROM ANY OTHER SIXTH FLEET MEDITERRANEAN CARRIER GROUP DEPLOYMENT. THE USG SIMPLY WANTS TO ALLEVIATE ANY CONCERS GOI MIGHT MXHAVE AND FIND WAYS TO ASSURE THAT VISIT CREATES POSITIV IMPACT. MOREOVER, GIVEN ITALIAN INTEREST IN ADVANCED NAVAL

TECHNOLOGY AND ITS ENERGY SHORTFALLS, ITALIAN GOVERNMENT SHOULD REALIZE THAT THE SIMPLICITY OF THE STANDARD STATEMENT SERVES TO ADANCE THESE INTERESTS AND TO DISCOURAGE STERILE CONTROVERSIES CONCERNING NUCLEAR MATTERS. NATO OFFICE CHIEF, SPEAKING PERSONALLY, AGREED THAT VISITS ULTIMATELY SOULD BE HANDLED AS A ROUTINE MILITARY-TO-MILITARY NATO-COMMITTED SIXTH FLEET CARRIER DEPLOYMENT.

6. EMBOFFS ALSO RAISED POSSIBILITY OF USING FILMS OF NIMITZ NOREUR DEPLOYMENT (USDAO ROME HAS REQUESTED FROM CHINFO) TO PREPARE ITALIAN PUBLIC FOR DEPLOYMENT. MFA CONTACTS FELT THIS COULD BE VERY POSITIVE, ESPECIALLY IF FILM NOT "OBVIOUSLY PROPAGANDISTIC" AND IF NOT USED ON EVE OF DEPLOYMENT. EMBOFFS PLAN TO REVIEW FILMS TOGETHER WITH DAO WITH OBJECTIVE OF ARRANGING PRIVATE SCREENING WITH ITN, MOD AND MFA CONTACTS. ONLY AFTER REVIEW PROCESS AND CONSULTATIONS WITH CONTACTS WOULD EMBASSY/DAO FORMALLY REQUEST WASHINGTON GUIDANCE RE POSSIBLE PLACING OF MATERIAL WITH NATIONAL TELEVISION (GOVERNMENT MONOPLY) NETWORKS.

7. ACTION REQUEST: GUIDANCE ON TERMS OF NPW VISITS TO AND BY OTHER NATO ALLIES AND POSSIBILITY OF NATO UMBRELLA AGREEMENT OR OTHER FORMULA TO MAKE THIS ISSUE MORE PALATABLE TO THE GOI.VOLPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIRCRAFT CARRIERS, NUCLEAR POWERED SHIPS, PORT CLEARANCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ROME01113
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760024-0916
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760131/aaaabbfj.tel
Line Count: 139
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 294701
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 JAN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 JAN 2004 by morefirh>; APPROVED <16 AUG 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NPW VISITS TO MEDITERRANEAN
TAGS: MNUC, MARR, IT, US, XG, XF, XI, NATO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006